

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-08 CEA-02

IO-14 OIC-04 USSS-00 DRC-01 SCCT-02 /189 W

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P 251228Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8814

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2206

E.O. QYTCW GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BEXP, EAID, SU, US

SUBJ: PRESS ARTICLE ON USG ATTITUDE TOWARD SUDAN

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF ARTICLE APPEARING
IN LOCAL ARABIC DAPLY "AS-SAHAFI" SEPT. 25 AND FEATURING
INTERVIEW WITH MINFINANCE AND NATIONAL ECONOMY
IBRAHIM MONEIM MANSOUR, WHO DEPARTED TODAY FOR
WASHINGTON IBRD/IMF MEETING. BANNER HEADLINE IN RED
ON FIRST PAGE READS: "PRESSURE TO PREVENT AMERICAN
INVESTMENT IN SUDAN".

2. BEGIN TEXT. "AS-SAHAFI HAS ASKED THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
AND NATIONAL ECONOMY, IBRAHIM MONEIM MANSOUR, ABOUT THE
ACCURACY OF RUMORS BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY
WHICH SAY THAT THE US GOVERNMENT HAS PUT PRESSURE ON VARIOUS
AMERICAN CORPORATIONS, INCLUDING SOME BANKS, TO CAUSE
THEM TO STOP ASSISTING OR DEALING WITH THE SUDAN BECAUSE
OF ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PALESTINIAN COMMANDOS.
SAYED MANSOUR SAID THAT HE DOES NOT RULE OUT THAT AMERICAN
CORPORATIONS AND BANKS HAD BEEN PRESSURED OR RECEIVED
INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS REGARD, BECAUSE NUMEROUS AMERICAN
SOURCES OF INVESTMENT NEGOTIATING WITH US IN VARIOUS AREAS
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EITHER BROKE OFF DISCUSSIONS OR WERE PREVENTED (OR REFRAINED)

FROM COMPLETING THE AGREEMENTS. SOME OF THEM HAVE NOT HIDDEN THE FACT THAT THEY HAD BEEN PRESSURED. THE MINISTER CONTINUED, SAYING THAT 'ALL OF THIS WILL NOT DIVERT THE SUDAN FROM ITS SOLID POSITION TOWARDS THE ARAB AND PALESTINIAN CAUSES. THE SUDAN ALIGNS ITSELF WITH BOTH. I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT OUR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND ECONOMIC POSITION IN GENERAL WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY SUCH MEASURES, BECAUSE OF THE SUDAN'S POLICY OF OPENESS TO ALL NATIONS IN THE WORLD AND THE VARIETY OF ITS FINANCIAL SOURCES AND DEALINGS. OUR COUNTRY DOES NOT DEAL WITH ONE SOURCE.'

THE ATTITUDE NOW EXHIBITED BY AMERICAN CORPORATIONS SEEMS RELATED TO THE SUDAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE COMMANDOS WHOM PRESIDENT NIMEIRI PARDONED AFTER THEY WERE TRIED FOR THE INCIDENT IN THE SAUDI EMBASSY IN KHARTOUM. THE US GOVERNMENT CONDEMNED THE SUDAN'S ATTITUDE AND RECALLED ITS AMBASSADOR FROM KHARTOUM". END TEXT.

3. ARTICLE REPRESENTS THE FIRST OCCASION ON WHICH GOS HAS MADE A PUBLIC ADMISSION THAT THE SITUATION VIS-A-VIS THE US IS ANYTHING BUT NORMAL. TIMING MAY BE RELATED TO VISIT OF FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF CHICAGO VICE PRESIDENT (AND US CITIZEN) ZIAD IDILBY. FNBC HAS JUST COMPLETED ARRANGEMENTS FOR \$20 MILLION EURODOLLAR CONSORTIUM LOAN. IN CALL ON EMBOFF, ZIAD INQUIRED AS TO USG ATTITUDE RE SUDAN AND WAS BRIEFED ON RELEVANT PORTIONS OF STATE 169610. HE SEEMED RELIEVED TO HEAR THERE WAS NO EFFORT DISCOURAGE US PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN FROM NORMAL COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY IN SUDAN. IT UNCLEAR, HOWEVER, WHETHER HIS BANK WAS ALLEGED VICTIM OF USG PRESSURE TO WHICH MONEIM REFERRED IN INTERVIEW.

4. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT EMBASSY MAY BE QUERIED ABOUT STORY. IF SO, WE PLAN TO SAY SIMPLY THAT EMBASSY IS NOT THE SOURCE. SHOULD DIRECT QUESTION ON EXIM BANK POLICY ARISE, WE WILL, UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, SAY THAT PROCESSING OF EXIM LOANS TO GOS HAS BEEN SUSPENDED.
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